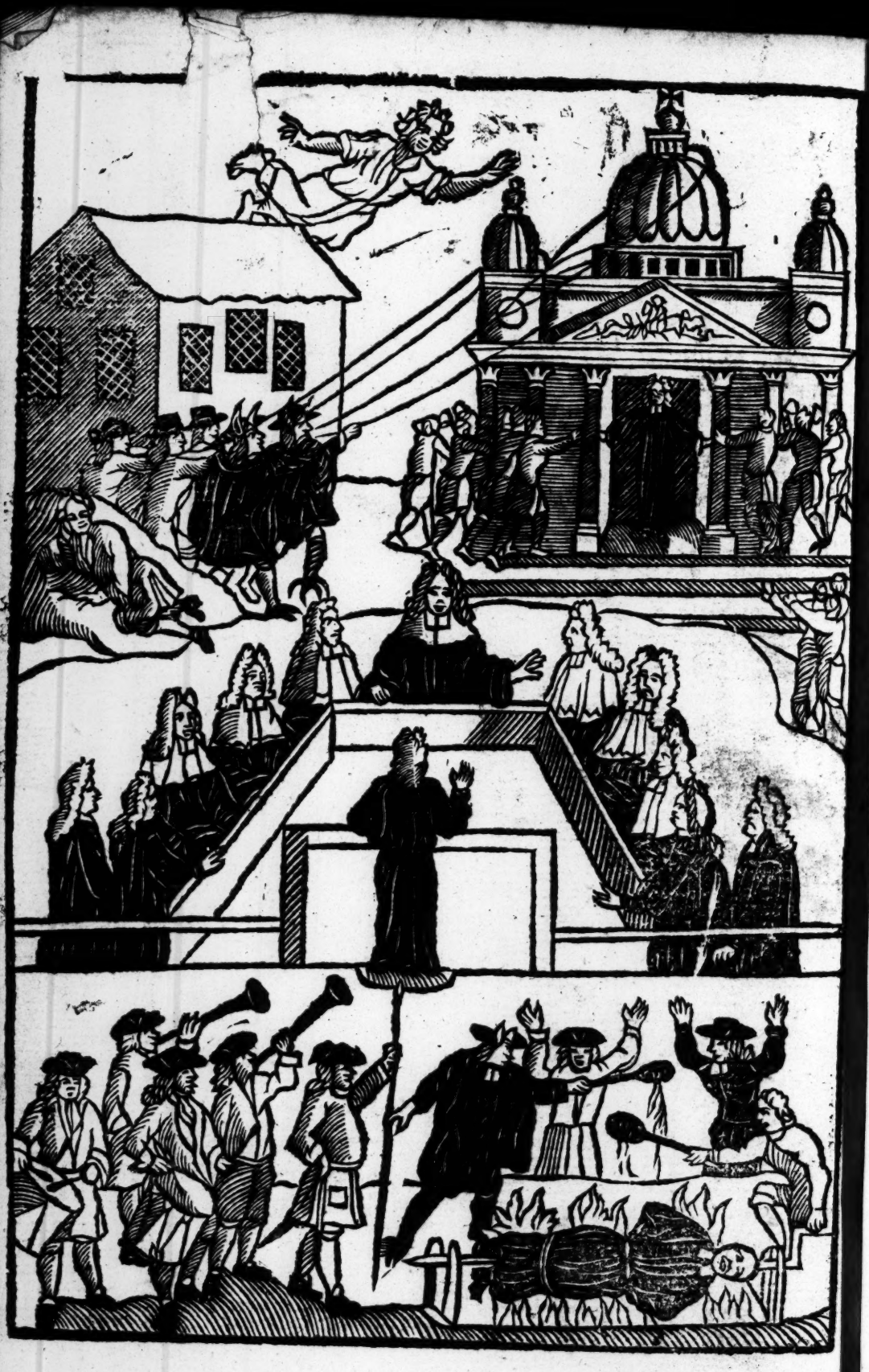

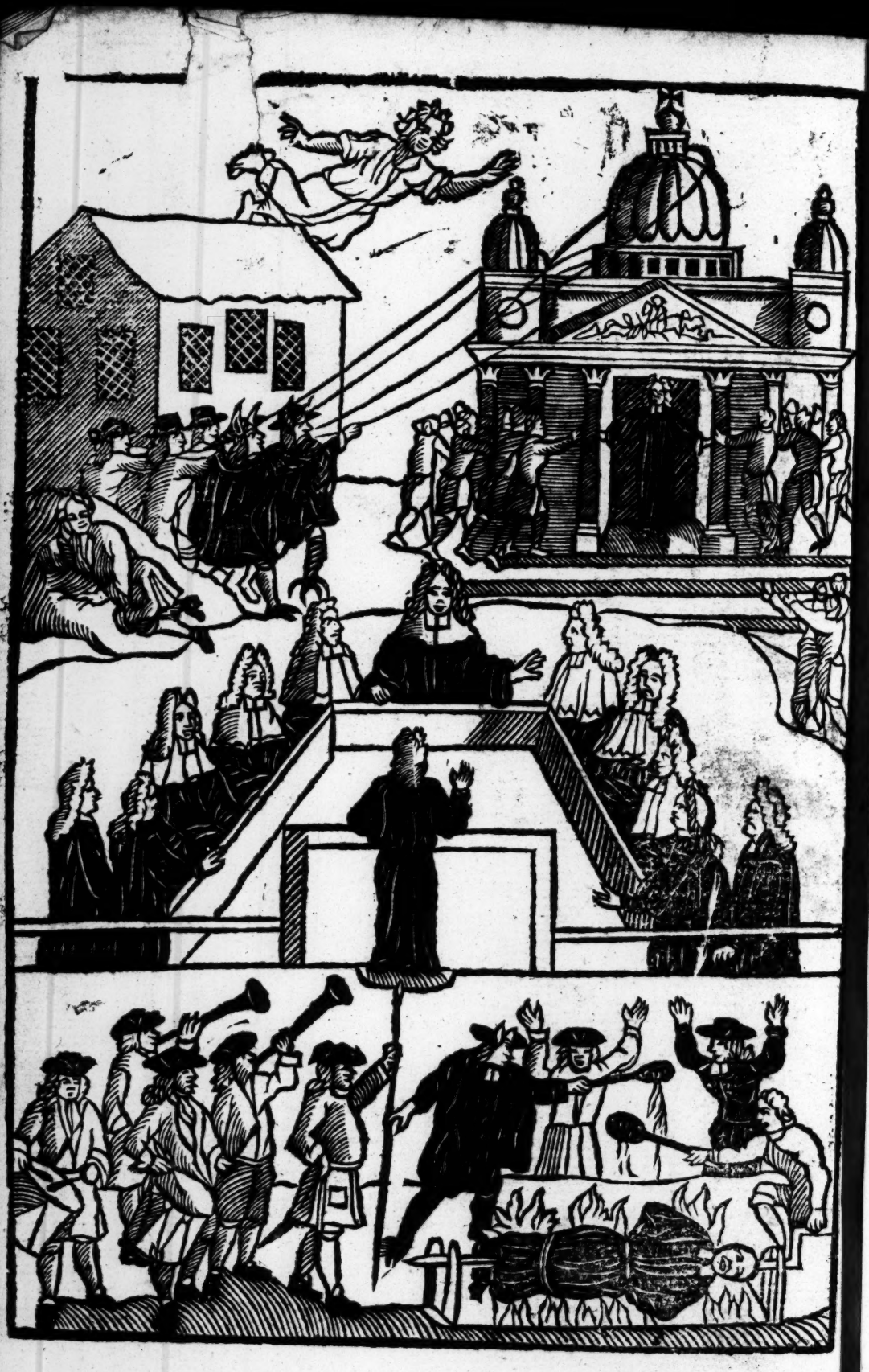

THE Limehouſe DREAM; OR, THE Churches PROP.

Enter'd in the Hall Book,
Purſuant to a late Act of Parliament.

LONDON,

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THE

Shepherd

OF

Olivet's

FLOCK

The Limehouſe *DREAM*, &c.

REturning Home Weary to my Lodging the other Night, which is (as you muſt know) Courteous Reader, at the farther End of *Lime-Houſe*, in a Garrat up four pair of Stairs, having Supp'd with ſome Dear Friends at *Pontack's*, elevated with enliv'ning *Champaign*, and Good Company, having drank *Sacheverell's* Health in Bumpers, I ported to Bed; and as you may believe ſoon fell aſleep, and was then entertain'd with ſo Odd a DREAM, that I thought it might be as welcome to the Publick, as Squire *Bickerſtaff's* Lucubrations.

I ſhall therefore relate it without Preamble, juſt as it appear'd to my buſy Fancy. I was, methought, call'd out of Bed by a Perſon altogether unknown to me, in a Tatter'd Habit, with a Parchment on his Breaſt, like an Accuſation, in which was writ *Paſſive Obedience* and *Non Reſiſtance*: And indeed he look'd as if he had been lately Pillory'd. Follow me quickly, ſaid he, I'l ſhew you a Tranſaction that is not only the Wonder, but the Deverſion of all Mankind at preſent, and will be the Jeſt of future Ages. I ſtarted up, and reſolutely follow'd him, laughing to ſee his Poſteriors, which appeared at every Step, thro' the Rents of a Canonical Habit a well diſpoſed Non juror had, as he ſa'd, beſtow'd upon him, and was immediately brought into a great Plain, where I ſaw a ſtately Cathedral much Reſembling St. *Paul's*, and a Large Conventicle ſurrounded with a multitude of People of all Ages, Profeſſions and Qualities; ſome having Coronets,

ſome

ſome Mitres, ſome Lawyers, ſome Parſons Habit on: All ſorts of Mechanicks had a hand in the Fray; but thoſe who appear'd moſt buſy to foment the Enthuſiaſtick Rage that appear'd to inſpire the whole Multitude, were a ſort of Monſters with Little Bands, Black Coats, Cloven Feet, Roleing Eyes, Vultures Claws, Brazen Foreheads, Aſſes Ears, Mouths from whence iſſued a ſort of Wildfire that took hold of every Mans Garments that had not a Common Prayer Book in his Pocket: And all theſe People were imploy'd, the moſt part, in Pulling down the Church to Enlarge the Meeting-Houſe, the others in demoliſhing the Conventicle to Repair the Church; thus every one pluckt a Stone out from the one Place to carry it to other, with ſuch Violence and Haſte that the whole Aſſembly was fill'd with nothing but Noiſe and Confuſion.

I was very inquiſitive with my Guide to know the meaning of all this Stir;

He

He told me, that all the poor People I ſaw Defaceing the Church were under the misfortune of being Lunaticks, their Brains being Turn'd with a Poyſonous Infuſion of an Herb the Monſters I ſaw, had given them to drink of, which Herb grew and flouriſh'd firſt in *Geneva*, and being thence Tranſplanted into the *Low Countries*, and grown very Rank, was by their Forefathers bought up, and brought into *England*, and by them mixt with the Jeſuits Bark, and given as a Potion to drive out a Lingering Diſeaſe call'd *Paſſive Obedience* and *Non Reſiſtance*; which was much catch'd by ſome of the Univerſities *Schollars*, and ſeldom is Cured till They come to be Prebends or Biſhops: But the Doſe ſaid he being of a Poyſonous and Hot Nature, generally Throws them into Malignant Fevers and State Convulſions, and ſo diſtracts their Intellects, that they miſtake a Meeting for the Apoſtolical Church, and the Aſſemblies Catechiſm for the Liturgy; and 'tis as much

much as the Church Party are able to do to keep them from utterly deſtroying the Church, and breaking down all the Fences and Church Walls in the Kingdom.

Whilſt he was yet ſpeaking, I ſaw ſeveral Perſons of a Grave Aſpect, in Canonical Habits, paſs by with Mufflers on their Faces Padlock'd on, others holding their Hands on their Mouths: The firſt of theſe ſaid he are Silenc'd by Force, the others are bought to it by large Preferments; ſo that not one dares, or will ſay any Thing of the Churches Danger, tho' it were falling upon their Heads.

He would have proceeded, but a great Shout made me to turn to ſee what was the Matter, and I perceived three or four hundred of the Lunaticks had broke into the Church, and pluckt away the Main Beam to which the Pulpit was fixt, and were bearing it away to prop the Meeting-Houſe up. And in few minutes the whole Church was ſo torn

that the very Foundation ſhook, and I apprehended it would fall immediately; when a Lovely Youth of Angelick Face and Form, running in to its Reſcue, flew into the Church, clap'd himſelf in the room of the Departed Beam; and tho his Stature ſeem'd but moderate at his Entry, he immediately ſeem'd much larger than any Pillar in the Church; and bore it up with ſuch Force and Conſtancy, that all their Efforts to remove him were ineffectual; till at length in a Rage they left to demoliſh the Church, and fell altogether upon him, dragging him away from the Altar on which he lean'd to reſt, carry'd him before the Judges who were then ſitting, it being the Aſſizes; and there with all the Malice and Clamour imaginable laid a Thouſand Crimes of the blackeſt nature to his Charge: Which when Silence was with much difficulty obtained, one of the moſt buſy, and active among 'em, began in this manner; May it pleaſe your Honours, moſt Serene Judges, the Perſon

ſon here brought before you, is taken, and apprehended, in one of the moſt abominable Facts in nature: We the Good Subjects of the Iſland *Sciſmattica*, being by Authority, and the benign Clemency of our Governour, permitted to build and raiſe up a Conventicle for the eaſe of ſeveral our weak Brethren who fall into Convulſions at the ſight of Pulpit Cloths, Cuſhions & Altars, are ſeized with the Falling Sickneſs, at the ſound of Hymns and Anthems; abhor Organs as much as Sincerity, and Epiſcopal Government as much as Truth and Honeſty. Having occaſion to enlarge this well-deſign'd Structure, we only borrow'd ſome of the Mouldring Stones and Poſts of an Old Cathedral, which our more fortunate Forefathers, of laſting Memory, converted into a Uſeful Stable, and Stews. This Impertinent Fellow! this Medling Fool! this Tool of a Party! comes impudently, and unſent for; claps himſelf into the place of the Idolatrous Poſt,

and

and ſo ſtifly oppoſes all our Deſigns, that more than one half of theſe good People were like to be ſeduc'd to quit the Godly Undertaking, and forſake us their Illuſtrious Leaders; Theſe are Crimes of an extenſive nature, theſe are daring Acts of Superſtitious Madneſs: Beſides, he went about to perſwade the Ignorant Mob their Church was Falling; when alas! no harm was intended: the more ſubſtantial part of it does, and may ſtill ſtand in the Name of *Jupiter*. What would it have ſignified to have ſpared us the Ornamental, if ſuch daring Attempts are not ſtifled in the Beginning, to what a rank growth will they ſoon come?

I ask'd my Guide who this Perſon was that ſpoke with ſo much Vehemence; he told me his Father was a worthy Patriot and Protector of that Cathedral; but that he was an Apoſtate, and a particular Friend of thoſe Luciferian Doctors I told you of before.

He

He had no ſooner ended but another ſtep'd up and ſpoke with as much Inveteracy, and ſo did ſeveral more; amongſt whom was one of the Longeſt Winded Orators I ever heard in my Life, and what ſurprized me more was to find he had as much Gall as Rhetorick; he call'd the Unconcerned Youth, in whoſe Face, Innocence and Truth, Courage and Piety bright as the Riſing Sun appear'd, *Thou Cunning Sophiſter of Hell*, cry'd his Foaming Accuſer, *Thou ridiculous Incendary*, and a Thouſand Opprobrious Names beſide; and was ſeconded by another yet more Violent, who cry'd, were I to ſentence that *Fellow*, he ſhould be Spitted on a Bramble, laid croſs a Saw-pit, Roaſted with the Flame of my Wives Top-Knots, and a *Major General* of my Acquaintance ſhould bring the Drums of his Regiment to make up the Entertainment: Others were for Stigmatizing, Impriſoning, and Gaging him, till at length the whole Aſſembly fell

to pecking at one another, and Noiſe and Clamour fill'd the Court; but having obtained Leave to make his Defence, he thus began,

Since it is at length permitted me to ſpeak for my ſelf, before You, Moſt Noble Lords, and this Compact Aſſembly, I ſhall briefly anſwer to the Crime laid to my Charge, *viz.* placing my ſelf in the room of a Poſt; it is not unknown to the whole World that *Poſts* are ſometimes neceſſary towards the framing the Building, tho *Pillars* are the Ornaments and Chief Supports of a Church; and ſuch are the Mutations in this World that *Pillars* are ſometimes transform'd into *Poſts*. Now why a Man, as I am, may not ſupply the place of either of theſe I cannot apprehend? or why the Timber given by our Fore-fathers for the Sacred Temples uſe, ſhould be Torn from thence, and an Inroad made into the Church, for our Enemies to enter at? If we muſt part with the Timber, for we value not the Stones,

Stones, let it, we beſeech your Honours, be converted into Three Leg'd Stools, for my Accuſers, and the Worthy Doctors with the Brazen Fronts to ſit on; and let me remain an Immoveable Prop to the Immortal Fabrick, for whoſe Honour I would gladly Dye. I had no Malicious, no Siniſter Deſign; but ſeeing the Conventicle likely to over-ſhadow the Cathedral, and grow upon its Ruins; unable to ſtop the Growing Evil, I Placed my ſelf in the Gap, and ſhall never yeild to Repent: but on the contrary am ready to be Sacrificed.

This Diſcourſe, methought, ſtung his Adverſaries, but more his Conſtancy; they call'd for Books and Preſidents, had long Debates, Triſl'd away much Time; but after much Diſcourſe, one of the Judges who had been long under the Hands of the *Genevean* Doctors, for a Tertian Ague, for which he had taken vaſt quantities of the Intoxicating Drink; proceeded to appeaſe the Clamour,

mour, by giving Sentence; tho, ſaid he, we have no particuler Laws already made, that relate to a Fact of this Nature; yet ſince ſo Abominable a Crime, ought not to go unpuniſh'd, we decree, that a Large Padlock be Affixt on the Offenders Mouth, in ſuch ſort, that tho he may be able to Squeake Hymns, and Old Ballads; yet he ſhall in no wiſe be able to Cry Aloud, or make any Idolatrous Outcry; no not even, tho the Old Cathedral were falling upon his Head: and to puniſh his Inſolence, and be a Warning to all his Incorrigeable Party, let the Pulpit and Old Chantry Book be Burnt under his Noſe, and his Name be Affix'd on every Poſt.

He would have proceeded, when a Violent Fit of the Ague ſeiz'd him, ſo that the Seat ſhook under him, inſomuch that he was fain to be carried off Inſtantly. At the ſame time methought, a prodigious Tempeſt aroſe, and a Southweſt Wind Rent the Conventicle from the Top to the Foundation. The

Youth

Youth was born away in a Shining Cloud, his Followers were lifted up into the Air, and carry'd to an Adjacent Hill, on the right Hand, whereon I ſaw a ſpacious City deſcend, into which they Enter'd, Singing *Te Deum* and *Halleluja!* till the Skies Eccho'd; then an Earthquake follow'd, at which the Conventicle Vaniſh'd, and the Multitude of Luniticks fled; except the Medicinal Miſcreants who were Swallow'd up; at which I heard a general Laugh through all the Globe. My Guide Smil'd at their Deſtruction and my Confuſion, which laſt was Inexpreſſible, till the Seraphick Voice of a Beautiful Youth from the Hill, Diſſipated my Surprize, Reaſſum'd my Spirits, and Compos'd my Diſorder'd Thoughts: His Stature was Tall, his Shape Incomparably Perfect, his Face Spoke the Angel and the Man, his Eyes were Black and Shining; and methought, when he turn'd his Head towards the Flying Lunaticks, they look'd back,

and

and Trembl'd, Bowing: His Hair hung in Inchanting Curles down to his graceful Shoulders; a Garment of Gold and Purple he had on, and on his Head a Crown, ſuch as adorn the Bleſt Above; His Form ſpoke him ſomething more than of Mortal Race: And I concluding he was one of thoſe Ethereal Youths that wait upon the Eternal Throne; liſtning, adored the Supream Goodneſs, whilſt in Immortal Strains he Sang,

Mortal look up, and glorifying ſee,
How bounteous Heav'n inceſſantly takes care
Of ſuffering Innocence, and Piety,
And ever fly the Curſt Schiſmatick Snare.

In vain the Daring, Buſy, Scorpions ſtrive
To rule the Roaſt, and ruin Church and State,
The Hour is come, Vertue again ſhall thrive,
And Vice ſhall feel the Iron Hand of Fate.

Stupendious Wonders Heav'n at length prepares
To Save, and Bleſs this too unthankful Iſle;
Peace ſhall ſucceed to end unnatural War,
The Wicked drooping mourn, all good Men ſmile.

The

The Church Triumphing, with her Sons adorn'd,
Shall henceforth lift her awful Head on High;
All Arts ſhall thrive, the Golden Age return'd,
Falſe Prieſts, and Hypocrites ſhall baniſht fly.

Fain I'd reveal, ſtrange Myſteries unknown,
But Heav'n to Man forbids, I can no more,
The wiſht for Hour's at Hand, I muſt be gone,
With Patience wait, and thankfully adore.

Juſt as this Myſtick Muſick finiſht, I was Waked with the Diſmal Screams of Hawkers, who went crying, *Hobs* of *Malmsbury*'s Letter to his Brother *Ben. Hoadly*, and *Fair Warning*. It was ſometime before I recollected my ſelf, or knew where I was; but at length finding all that had paſt was only a Dream, tho indeed it was ſome time before I could perſwade my ſelf that it was not ſomething more; ſo Lively was the Idea Imprinted upon my Mind. I Roſe and Dreſt my Self, and ſtep'd to an old Tarpaulin Friend of mine, to whom relating the Viſſionary Story, he adviſed

ſed me to oblige the Publick with it, who perhaps may be better able than I am at preſent, to find out, or give ſome Signification to it: And it is my earneſt Requeſt to all Lovers of Art, that if any of them can find out the Interpretation, they will oblige me with it; Directing to my Old Friend, to be left for me: And it will very much oblige their Moſt

Humble Servant

Andrew Marvell, Jun.

FINIS.

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